

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01

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P R 310700Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8043

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 8731

USIAC

FOR IOR/M IEA; STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO CPC 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. HONG KONG EDITORIAL WRITERS TODAY BEGAN THEIR ANALYSES OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. AND, AS EXPECTED, THERE WERE VARIED INTERPRETATIONS.

2. THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST WROTE: (QUOTE) ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY IS CLEARLY NOT A COMPLETE SUMMARY OF WHAT TRANSPRIRED AT THE FIVE-DAY MEETING, IT DOES PROVIDE SOME FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE CONTINUING UNHEALTHY STATE OF THE PARTY.

3. AND, TO SOME EXTENT, IT REFLECTS A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE FACTIONS BUT MERELY AS AN EXPEDIENT TO NORMALISE THE STRUCTURE OF THE HIERARCHY.

4. AS EXPECTED, THE FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER AND ERSTWHILE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCCESSOR TO CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG, MARSHAL LIN PIAO,

IS POSTHUMOUSLY AND OFFICIALLY EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY AND
SO ALSO IS THE CHAIRMAN'S ONE-TIME CONFIDANTE, MR. CHEN
PO-TA....

5. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE CHAPTER AS FAR AS
THE LIN PIAO ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE IS CONCERNED, FOR THE
COMMUNIQUE IMPLIES THAT THE CLIQUE HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY
ELIMINATED....

6. THE NEED FOR CONTINUING THE TWO-LINE STRUGGLE TO TOTALLY
ERADICATE THE INFLUENCE OF LIN PIAO IN THE "WHOLE PARTY,
ARMY AND PEOPLE" IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, ACCORDING
TO THE COMMUNIQUE....

7. JUDGING FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDIUM - BALANCED
BETWEEN KNOWN LEFTIST RADICALS AND MR. CHOU EN-LAI'S
CONSERVATIVE BUREAUCRATS - THERE IS A SEMBLANCE OF UNITY.

8. BUT THE COMMUNIQUE'S REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR CONTINUED
"STRUGGLE-CRITICISM-TRANSFORMATION IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE"
CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN THE TOP
ECHELON OF THE PARTY IS STILL BEING WAGED....(UNQUOTE)

9. READING THE COMMUNIQUE AS AN INDICATION OF CONTINUING
MODERATION, THE HONGKONG STANDARD SAID: (QUOTE) THE 10TH
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS PUT
THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE PRAGMATIC AND MODERATE
POLICIES PURSUED BY PEKING UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF PREMIER
CHOU EN-LAI.

10. THE DOUBTING TOMS WHO IN RECENT WEEKS WERE UNCERTAIN
AS TO WHETHER PREMIER CHOU WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING THE OLD GUARD
OF THE PARTY AND THEIR RADICAL RED GUARD OPPONENTS TOGETHER
AND HOLD A COMMON GROUND HAVE NOW BEEN PROVED FALSE....

11. THE ONLY MAJOR ELEMENTS LEFT OUT HAVE BEEN THE FOLLOWERS
OF LIN PIAO....

12. THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE CONGRESS ALSO SUPPORTED THE
BASIC POLICIES OF PREMIER CHOU'S GOVERNMENT IN FOREIGN
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AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. BUT THE BREVITY AND THE SECRECY OF
THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAS LED OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE THAT AN INTENSE
POWER STRUGGLE AND WHEELING AND DEALING AMONG THE FACTIONS
MUST HAVE TAKEN PLACE EARLIER....

13. APART FROM THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THE PARTY AND THE
CONGRESS ITSELF, THE NET RESULT APPEARS TO BE THAT CHINA IS
MOVING TOWARDS A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP, THUS ELIMINATING THE

POSSIBILITY OF A FIERCE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION AFTER THE (#)

(#) THE DOMINANCE OF

YOUNGER AND MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
ALSO INDICATES THAT CHINA WILL CONTINUE HER PRAGMATIC DOMESTIC
POLICIES AND OUTWARD-LOOKING, LESS THAN RADICAL FOREIGN POLICIES
INITIATED BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. (UNQUOTE)

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NOTE BY OCT: (#) OMISSION, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8044

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 8731

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FOR IOR/M IEA; STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO CPC 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

14. PRO-COMMUNIST TA KUNG PAO SAID THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S
ELATION "IS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE. JUST AS THE PRESS
COMMUNIQUE POINTED OUT, THE 10TH CONGRESS WAS CONVENED
PRECISELY AT A TIME WHEN THE LIN PIAO ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE HAD
BEEN SMASHED AND THE LINE OF THE PARTY'S 9TH NATIONAL CONGRESS
HAD ACHIEVED GREAT VICTORY, AND WHEN THE SITUATION WAS EXCELLENT
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD." IT WAS THE NATIONWIDE ANTI-LIN
RECTIFICATION CAMPAIGN WHICH HEIGHTENED THE AWARENESS OF

THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE OF CHINA AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO USHER IN THIS EXCELLENT SITUATION, THE PAPER SAID. TA KUNG CONCLUDED: "FROM NOW ON, WITH PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SERIOUSLY STUDYING AND CARRYING THROUGH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS OF THE 10TH CONGRESS AND DOING THEIR WORK WELL, THE SITUATION AT HOME WILL SURELY BE EVEN BETTER."

15. THE PRO-COMMUNIST HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY SIMILARLY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, PREDICTING: "THEY (THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHINESE PEOPLE) WILL FURTHER RALLY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE PARTY CENTRAL, 'STRIVING TO GRASP REVOLUTION, URGE PRODUCTION, URGE WORK AND URGE PREPARATION AGAINST WAR,' TO WIN EVEN GREATER VICTORY IN VARIOUS AREAS." THE PAPER ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONGRESS WAS "A CONGRESS OF SOLIDARITY" EMBODYING THE OLD, THE MIDDLE-AGED AND THE YOUNG, AND THAT THIS SHOWED THE PARTY HAD NO LACK OF SUCCESSORS.

16. (THE LEFTIST PAPERS IN HONG KONG DO NOT RUN DAILY EDITORIALS. THE ABOVE COMMENT WAS TAKEN FROM NEWS ANALYSIS COLUMNS. ONLY ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS DO THE MAJOR PRO-COMMUNIST TA KUNG PAO AND WEN WEI PAO PUBLISH EDITORIALS, AND THUS FAR THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO.)

17. THE INDEPENDENT MING PAO NOTED: "BASICALLY THE CPC'S 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS CONTINUES ALONG THE LINE AND POLICY CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE...." THE PAPER DISAGREED WITH THE CONGRESS' VIEW THAT THE WORLD IS IN GREAT DISORDER; RATHER, IT SAID: "THE EFFECT OF THE CPC 10TH CONGRESS IS ONE OF STABILIZATION BY SUMMING UP PAST DISORDER IN THE WORLD AND REDUCING TO A MINIMUM THE CHANCES OF FUTURE WORLD DISORDER." FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDIUM MING PAO GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT "THE MODERATES AND THE ULTRA-LEFTISTS HAVE ON THE WHOLE ACHIEVED A BALANCE OF FORCES." THE PAPER REMARKED: "WANG HUNG-WEN SUDDENLY BECAME THE SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS PRESIDIUM AND POLITIBURO, AND KANG SHENG IS THIRD VICE CHAIRMAN. APPARENTLY THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION CLIQUE DID NOT MAKE TOO MUCH CONCESSION. WE BELIEVE THAT MAO TSETUNG HIMSELF IS UNWILLING TO LET THE SITUATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND WITHIN THE PARTY TO COMPLETELY RETURN TO THE PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION STATE; HE SUPPORTS CHOU ENLAIS POLICY LINE, YET AT THE SAME TIME HE IS RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP THE MANY RADICAL CHANGES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT."

18. SING PAO DAILY NEWS, ANOTHER INDEPENDENT PAPER, SAW THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE CONGRESS IN A MATTER OF MERELY FIVE DAYS AS INDICATING "CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT," AND REFLECTING

"THE AUTHORITY OF MAO AND CHOU WAS NOT OPPOSED." THE PAPER
OBSERVED: "MAO TSETUNG AND CHOU ENLAI ARE BOTH IN FAVOR OF
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IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. NOW THAT THE CPC CONGRESS
HAS PASSED CHOU ENLAI'S POLITICAL REPORT, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS'
U.S. POLICY WILL NATURALLY BE CARRIED OUT AT AN ACCELERATED PACE,
AND TALKS WITH THE U.S. WILL BE RENEWED SOON."

19. THE KMT-OWNED HONG KONG TIMES MAINTAINED THAT THE
COMPOSITION OF THE LEADERSHIP WHICH EMERGED FROM THE CONGRESS
SHOWED THE CONTENDING FACTIONS WITHIN THE PARTY HAD NOT
"DIVIDED THE SPOILS" OF THE ANTI-LIN PIAO STRUGGLE TO
EVERYONE'S SATISFACTION. HENCE NEW STRUGGLES ARE BOUND TO
BREAK OUT WITH THE CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS, THE PAPER SAID.

20. THE PRO-KMT EXPRESS ALSO SAW SERIOUS DISUNITY WITHIN
THE PARTY. REFERRING TO THE PASSAGE IN THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE
ON INTERNATIONAL DISORDER, EXPRESS COMMENTED: "INTERNATIONAL
DISORDER IS WHAT THEY DESIRE AND WHAT THEY WANT TO CREATE.
THEIR FOREIGN POLICY LINE TODAY IS A SO-CALLED 'UNITED FRONT'
LINE, WHOSE PURPOSE IS 'PARTICULARLY TO OPPOSE THE HEGEMONISM
OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS -- THE U. S. AND THE USSR.' (UNQUOTE)
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